

Marine Science I

Mr. David Knuffke (Knuffke.d@deerparkschools.org)

Office: Room 273C

Course Wiki: <http://dpmarine.wikispaces.com>

Extra Help:

- Before School, after school and during lunch periods/study halls by previous appointment (1 day prior).
- In the morning of exam days.
- Through Electronic Mail (I check my e-mail every day).

Marine Science I is a survey course of those sciences pertaining to the ocean and it's interactions with and effect on the biosphere. Topics are wide ranging and draw from concepts in all major branches of the sciences. Emphasis is placed on the myriad interactions between the biosphere and human society.

Required Materials:

- A three-ring binder for marine science.
- Lined paper in the three-ring binder (100 sheets is more than enough).
- Graph paper in the three-ring binder (25 sheets is more than enough).
- A folder in the binder.
- A scientific calculator. You can use a graphing calculator. Your cell phone is not an acceptable calculator.
- A pen or pencil.
- All relevant course materials as specified during class.

All required materials are expected to be in your possession by this Thursday.

Failure to have these materials on a daily basis will result in a grade of "unprepared" for the day.

A modern computer with internet access is not required, but will prove to be extremely helpful.

Rules: My rules are congruent with those laid out in the beginning of your student guidebook. Fundamentally, those rules boil down to four:

1. Respect everyone and everything in this school.
2. You are here to learn. Effort is required.
3. **You** are expected to do your own work.
4. You may not interfere with anyone else's right to follow Rules 1, 2 and 3.

Specific school policies about cell phones, mp3 players, hats, etc. are enforced in this class.

Grades: Your grade will be provided to you at least three times each quarter, prior to your final grade. It is based on assignments and participation. There are many kinds of assignments in this class:

Classwork: You will have Classwork everyday. Most will be collected and graded.

Homework: You will have daily homework assignments. Usually, these assignments will be a combination of reading assignments and small projects. Homework is due the next day, unless otherwise specified. It is important that you keep up with reading assignments and do all assigned homework.

Other homework assignments may include (but are not limited to) worksheets, pre-labs, lab reports, reading and analysis of scientific writing, etc. Homework assignments will be checked at the beginning of the next class period or collected and graded. Homework is checked or collected at the beginning of class. Late homework can earn a maximum of half credit. Homework will not be accepted more than 1 day after it is due.

Homework assignments will also be posted on the class wiki posterboard and on the class calendar (viewable from my e-board and from wiknuffke).

Quizzes: You will have a quiz every Friday.

Tests: Tests are given approximately three times a quarter. They encompass a variety of exam formats, but are primarily essay-based.

Labs: We will do at least one lab per week. You are required to complete every lab that we conduct. There will be many labs done during the course of the year. Students are expected to complete the pre-lab section (if there is one) before beginning a laboratory activity. During the lab, students are expected to complete all procedures, collect all necessary data and perform all relevant calculations. All students are expected to adhere to all safety procedures when in the laboratory. Any student who does not adhere to all safety procedures during a lab activity will receive a grade of 0 on that lab activity. Students who have continual difficulty in following safety procedures may be barred from participating in laboratory activities until such time as they can demonstrate proper lab safety procedures.

All labs will be written up according to guidelines that we will discuss. Labs are penalized 10 points for every day they are late.

Projects: Students will be required to complete various large-scale projects during the course of the year. Requirements for projects will be discussed at the time they are assigned.

Makeup work: It is strongly recommended that you attend class every day in a timely fashion. Excessive lateness or absences will make it very difficult for you to keep up with the workload of this course. **If you are legally absent, it is your responsibility to makeup all assignments.** “I was absent” is not an excuse for missing an assignment (unless I excuse you). Please discuss missed work with me as soon as you return to class. Work done during absences is due one day after your return to class. You must also make arrangements to makeup any labs, quizzes or tests as soon as you return to school. Labs must be completed by the close of the current quarter.

If your absence is unexcused, you will receive a “0” on anything we do in class on the day(s) of your absence. This includes classwork, labs, quizzes and tests. You cannot make up any work that is missed due to illegal absences.

All students are provided with one copy of each class document from me. If this copy is lost, you are required to access and print a supplemental copy from the class wiki.

Final Exam: A course final, given during mid-year testing, will count for 33% of your final average.

Grading policy:

Tests/Projects	40%
Labs	10%
Quizzes	20%
Participation	15%
HW/Classwork	15%

Participation: You are expected to be prepared for class and participate every day that you are here. If you are unprepared (defined as not having the required materials for class) you will lose .25 of 1 point of your quarter grade. If you do not participate fully (follow all class expectations as outlined below) you will lose an additional .25 of 1 point of your quarter grade. These deductions cannot be made up.

Class Expectations: All AP students are expected to

- Be on time
- Be ready to begin class when the bell rings
- Be prepared for class
- Participate freely
- Ask questions when confused
- Answer questions when asked
- Do all required work without complaint
- Work to curtail any disruption
- Generally act as the most mature incarnation of yourself

Field Trips: We will take several field trips during this semester. Attendance on field trips is a privilege. If I am uncomfortable taking you on a field trip, you will not be allowed to attend. Any students who are ineligible for attendance, discipline or academics will not be allowed to attend field trips.

Academic Honesty: You are allowed to collaborate on lab exercises. Data among lab partners is expected to be identical. With this exception, all work done in this class is expected to be original or attributed to its original source in either the MLA or APA format. Any violation of this will result in an automatic 0 on the assignment in question. Cheating on exams will result in an automatic 0, mandatory change of seating, academic referral and notification of parents, notification of guidance counselor, notification of grade-level administrator and the inability to ever receive a college recommendation from me for all parties involved.

Consequences: In the interest of honesty, the following is the flow chart for how I typically deal with problems in class. This should not be taken as dogma.

Warning→Private Conference→Detention→Call home→Referral

Three or more missing assignments = Call home.

Defacement of school property = Detention. Detention is served after school. You will be given a late bus pass.

I reserve the right to immediately remove anyone from the class who is seriously disturbing the learning process for their classmates.

This is not an easy class.

We only do work that is challenging and worthwhile.

If you are not careful, you can fail very easily.

If you work, study, practice and participate you will be fine.